School Council decides against merger option…

On Monday evening, School Council had a special meeting to consider the motion “That Avondale Primary School Council invites Western Metropolitan Region to assist us to explore a merger with Milleara Primary School.” At the end of a challenging and taxing meeting the motion was defeated eight votes to two votes.

I would like to support the President’s statement in thanking Council members for their careful and diligent deliberation and Western Metropolitan Region for allowing us the opportunity to consider this merger proposal.

Homework Policy (by Joe Scarfo, Curriculum Coordinator)…

Thank you to all those who returned the homework survey. The information you have provided will help formulate our new homework policy. I have collated the responses as shown below:

There were also a range of views expressed in the comments section of the survey, the following quotes demonstrate the variety of opinions:

- “Homework should reflect what was being taught in the classroom”
- “There should be a balance of maths, literacy and general studies”
- “The time spent on homework should increase progressively from Prep to Grade 6”
- “Homework shouldn’t become so great that it intrudes on family time”
- “It is important that homework becomes a part of a daily routine.”

I would like to thank staff for taking the time to read and reflect upon comments received, I believe that this will raise the quality of discussion as we formulate our new draft Policy Statement. The Education Subcommittee along with staff will draft a homework policy and this will appear in the newsletter for parent comment.

New Books purchased to support Premiers Reading Challenge (by Liz Oruba, Library)…

The Premier’s Reading challenge has truly begun at Avondale Primary School. With the purchase of over $2600 books from Borders Books taking us to about 70% of titles on the Premier’s Reading challenge list. The new titles will start drizzling out next week. Some examples of titles include:

Cox, Tania. Wolf’s Sunday Dinner.
Donaldson, Julie. The Gruffalo’s Child.
Camody, Isobelle. Little Fur.
Edward, Hazel. Hey Hippopotamus Do Babies Eat Cake?

And the complete new series of all Roald Dahl’s famous titles such as Fantastic Mr. Fox and George’s Marvellous Medicine. Also the Morris Gleitzman’s Toad series. Plus many, many more. All great books. So, please encourage your children to keep reading!

Have a great week

[Signature]
Here is a list of what our preps would like to be when they grow up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dylan</td>
<td>a goblin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>a zoo keeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonella</td>
<td>a nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoe</td>
<td>a singer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas</td>
<td>a vet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiana</td>
<td>a zoo keeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mikael</td>
<td>a father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlene</td>
<td>a ballerina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiffany</td>
<td>a ballerina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavlos</td>
<td>a policeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>a fireman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jai</td>
<td>an animal rescuer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony</td>
<td>an ambulance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell</td>
<td>a coffee man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innayat</td>
<td>a ballerina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>a zoo keeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annabelle</td>
<td>an ice skating teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luca</td>
<td>a Lamborghini driver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tala</td>
<td>a doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karri</td>
<td>a vet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri</td>
<td>a witch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan</td>
<td>a ballet teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amie</td>
<td>a princess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thien</td>
<td>a princess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neve</td>
<td>old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anastasia</td>
<td>a chef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanessa</td>
<td>a princess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maklet</td>
<td>a singer girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priyanka</td>
<td>a ballerina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly</td>
<td>a nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omar</td>
<td>a flyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>a dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel M</td>
<td>a parrot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin</td>
<td>a policeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis</td>
<td>a superhero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nga</td>
<td>a ballerina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Swine Influenza…

On 24 April 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) (http://www.who.int/en/) advised the Australian Government of an outbreak of swine influenza in Mexico and the United States. Cases have since been confirmed in Canada, Britain, New Zealand and Spain. This has lead to a pandemic alert which triggers certain actions but does not mean that a pandemic is inevitable.

At the time this newsletter was published, no confirmed cases of this strain of swine influenza have been identified in Australia.

Level of alert in Australia

Commonwealth and Victorian health authorities are currently monitoring the issue, including increased international border controls, and have alerted doctors and hospitals. The Commonwealth will determine whether and when to escalate the level of response.

Concerns about swine flu should be referred to any of the following:

- Call the Swine Influenza Hotline Tel. 1800 2007 – for the general public and people returning from the Americas with flu-like symptoms
- Call Nurse-on-Call Tel. 1300 606 024 – for expert health information and advice (24 hours, 7 days)
- Call your doctor (GP) – if you have an influenza-like illness (fever, cough and fatigue) and have travelled to Mexico or California, Arizona, New Mexico or Texas in the past seven days.
- Call your local hospital – if you have pneumonia and have travelled to Mexico or California, Arizona, New Mexico or Texas in the past seven days.
Water saving tips:
Half flush at the toilet when you can.

Turn the tap off when you brush your teeth.

Interesting things we learnt about water:

I learnt that if you have a shower or go to the toilet etc.
The dirty water goes down the drain all the way to a big factory (Treatment Plant) it then goes back to the ocean.

Earth is 70% made of water.

Hot water is lighter than cold water. That is why a swimming pool feels warm on top and cold underneath.
DATES TO REMEMBER

(Subject to change please check regularly)

May
Friday 1st  
Fundraising Meeting 9:15 am
Facilities Committee 5pm

Tuesday 5th  
5/6s to visit Essendon  
Keilor College Discovery Day

Wednesday 6th  
Police band Code One at the ECA centre—Free for students

Thursday 7th  
Prep Mothers Afternoon Tea 2:15pm

Friday 8th  
Mothers Day Stall
Interschool Sport—Resurrection (Away)

13, 14 & 15  
Naplan Testing

Friday 15th  
Finance Committee Meeting
Interschool sport—Milleara (Home)

Monday 18th-22nd  
Education Week and Bookfair in Library
School Council Meeting

Tuesday 19th  
Grade 5/6 Excursion to The Shrine and MCG

Wednesday 20th  
Open Day - Tours of the School every half hour

Friday 22nd  
Interschool Sport—St John Boscoe (Away)

Newsletters can be found every Friday on our website - www.avondaleps.vic.edu.au.
You can also check this site for the term Calendar.

Rebel Sport Fundraiser

When you purchase goods at Rebel Sport Highpoint and mention Avondale Primary School in the MVP program, the school receives 5% of the purchase price and you receive a 5% discount. Why not mention this next time you’re there?

OSHC News

Welcome back to term 2. what a term we have ahead of us here at after school care. Last week we focused on cleaning up our old work to make room for new work. This term we will be travelling the world, exploring different cultures and participating in a range of activities from sports to cooking as well as some exciting art work. I will be placing an itinerary on the door so you know where we will be heading in what weeks. Feel free to come and join in the fun.

Sharee
OSHC Co-ordinator

Parent Advocate, Kevin O’Neill together with The Moonee Valley Kids Social Skills Group presents

‘What’s out there and how do I get it? Government Funding for Children with Asperger Syndrome’

Guest Speaker Cristina Isaac will review the state and federal funding options available to families and schools.

Date: Tuesday May 12, 2009
Time: 10:30—12.00am
Place: Function Hall, Crn Gladstone St and Moore St, Moonee Ponds.
Cost $5 (tea and coffee provided)
-Limited places available-

To register your attendance please email Kevin O’Neill at kevinoneill@optusnet.com.au or call Connie Malatsis on 0409 177 557

Our multi talented Handyman, Tony Annetta, has just become the author of a comic strip book called "Waterlogged" It is mostly about goldfish and frog characters.
His book can be seen at the front office and will be selling for $9.00 through the School.
(They’ll be retailing for around $12.00 in bookstores) Tony is offering a dollar to the school for every book we sell.

Advertisements

The advertisements in this newsletter are for community interest only. The school has no connection with, nor endorses, any particular business activity.

Jamie Mcgee Guitar Tutoring

We teach all age groups and can also teach in groups of 2-5. our lessons go for 30 mins each.
We can come to you between the areas of Niddrie and Maribyrnong, other areas can be contemplated.
Groups of:
1-20 $20
2-215 each
3- 315 each
4- $11 each
5- $10 each

Please call Jamie on: 0403 211 952
IMPORTANT NOTICE

For the safety of all students and staff, please do not use the staff car park for dropping off or picking up of children. There is allocation for disabled parking which is for one of our students, we ask that only this parent enter the Staff Car Park.

*Parents Please Note*
To help keep costs down we ask that every child bring a box of tissues to school for their grade. If you could send one in it would be appreciated.
Classroom Teachers

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!
Mrs Broadhurst is looking for helpers to cover readers. Please see her if you can take a few books home to be covered.
Thank-you

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)

If you hold a valid Health Care or Pension Card which covers the start of Term 3 - 14th July 2008 - and did not apply for EMA in February, please bring your card to the school office as soon as possible so that you can apply for the second half of the year. If you received EMA for the first half of the year and your card is still valid you do not need to re-apply.

Stockdale & Leggo

FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS
26 Centreway, East Keilor, Vic. 3033
Phone: 9331 6244 Fax: 9331 6277
www.stockdaleleggo.com.au

SAM CARBONE